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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Extension Service Washington 25, D. C.

July 22, 1947

For administrative use only

TO ALL STATE DIRECTORS OF EXTENSION

Subject: Current Farm Labor News - #20

Farm Labor Program to end--The House Agricultural Committee on Saturday, July 19, reported out without amendment H.R. 4254 which would modify and extend the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to dispose of farm labor camps. This action would appear to close the door to any possibility of the Congress doing anything about a permanent farm labor program at this session. In other words, the House Agricultural Committee has decided that responsibility for the conduct of a farm placement service should be lodged solely in the U.S.E.S. beginning with January 1, 1948.

From here out the Cooperative Agricultural Extension Service will conduct the Emergency Farm Labor Program in such a manner as to complete operational activities by December 31, 1947, and the final liquidation of the program by January 30, 1948. In the face of that prospect it may be difficult to maintain an effective organization throughout the remainder of 1947. Extra effort may need to be put forth to insure completion of the farm labor assignment on the high level of accomplishment which has characterized the Extension farm labor program to date. Necessary curtailment of the foreign labor and labor camp activities of the Labor Branch due to reduced appropriation may even make necessary temporary expansion of the domestic farm labor program in some areas.

Liquidation procedure—An effort will be made to clear at once the procedure to be followed by State Extension Services in disposing of farm labor equipment as it becomes surplus. We shall advise you on sale of Extension farm labor property, handling of accrued or terminal leave and other liquidation problems at the earliest possible date. In the meantime please let us know of any unusual liquidation problems which may present themselves in your State.

Wheat Harvest clearing up-Yesterday we received word for the first time which indicates that the number of combines available for the wheat harvest approximates the demand. W. O. Stark reports that the Kansas harvest is completed but for the clean-up. The harvest in Nebraska is only 3 to 4 days behind the weather. The spring wheat harvest in North Dakota will be at least 2 weeks later than usual according to State Supervisor Herbison.

New Texas Reception Center Booklet-Dutch Hohn has supplied us with copies of the latest Texas publication describing their Reception Centers for migratory farm workers which have been established in that State in connection with the farm labor program. He advises that a copy has been sent direct to your farm labor supervisor. Additional copies can be obtained from the Texas Extension Service.

Yours very truly,

Meredith C. Wilson
Deputy Director of Extension

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Farm Labor Program

cc: State supervisors 754 (7-47)

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